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# **NH Climate Change Policy Task Force Action Plan Meeting**

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## 3 Main Issues

- International Context
  - Possible routes to reach agreement on post-Kyoto commitments (2009-2010)
- US National Approach
  - Varying approaches to emissions reduction taken by Congress & the Administration
  - Alternative possibilities for setting carbon price: Carbon Tax, Cap & Trade
- State & Regional Efforts
  - Relationship of sub-national approaches to national efforts



## International Context

- Need for global targets to follow existing Kyoto targets that expire in 2012
- Two pathways have been identified
  - UN's Bali Roadmap
  - Bush Administration's Major Economies Meetings (MEM)





## Bali

- Countries agreed to ongoing negotiations on emission reductions post-Kyoto
- 'Bali roadmap' to shape goals
  1. Recognizes **necessity of deep cuts** in global emissions
  2. Calls for developed countries to make nationally appropriate measurable mitigation commitments or actions
  3. **Calls for developing countries to take appropriate mitigation action in the context of sustainable development, enabled by technology, financing and capacity building**
  4. Will **include** deforestation/sustainable management of forests



## Bali

- Countries agreed to ongoing negotiations on emission reductions post-Kyoto
- 'Bali roadmap' to shape goals
  - 5. **New emphasis** on adaptation actions, risk management, disaster reduction strategies
  - 6. **Continues use of markets** to enhance cost-effectiveness
  - 7. Includes **a lot more** technology development and transfer
  - 8. Contemplates direct funding for developing countries, positive incentives, mobilization of public- and private-sector investment



## Major Economies Meetings (MEM)

- Administration aims for a global framework in which **all major emitters are engaged and responsible**
- 18 countries included
- Sectoral/voluntary in nature
- Contemplates **collective aspirational** reduction goal, national commitments
- Would not take place under UN but would report to UN Framework Convention
- Unclear how this will develop: EU participation, etc.





# What are the main issues internationally?

- Kyoto-like binding targets v. voluntary commitments
- Nature of developing country commitments
- Approach to adaptation, deforestation
- Trade issues, especially related to technology transfer
- How it will all be financed



## National Approach

- US domestic law and planned emission reduction efforts are the only basis on which we can make a commitment in any international process
- 12 emission reduction bills now under consideration in Congress
  - Economy-wide Carbon Tax vs. Economy-wide Cap & Trade
- Focus on R&D
  - ARPA-E
- The Administration has yet to take a clear position; statements to date have opposed mandatory caps





## Cap and Trade

- In a Cap and Trade system, the government caps GHG emissions at a certain level by controlling the number of emission allowances in circulation. Trade of pollution allowances, in principle, ensures the efficient emission reduction choices.
- Issues
  - point of regulation
  - scope
  - linkage to other nations
  - targets, safety valve, time period
  - allocation method



## Where the Bills stand

- Lieberman-Warner (S.2191) was approved by the Environment Committee and may be put up for floor action in the Spring
- Bingaman-Specter (S.1766)
- Action in the House is uncertain
  - Energy and Commerce Committee hinted at legislation in the Spring



## State and Regional Action

- Many States and Regions have taken action
  - 36 states have completed comprehensive Climate Action Plans
  - 17 states have Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets
  - Several Regional Agreements
    - RGGI, Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord & Others
- How will this action interact with a Federal approach?





## New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan 2001

1. The Establishment of a Regional Standardized GHG Emissions Inventory
2. The Establishment of a Plan for Reducing GHG Emissions and Conserving Energy
3. The Promotion of Public Awareness



## New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan 2001

4. State and Provincial Governments to Lead by Example (also LECs?)
5. **The Reduction of Greenhouse Gases from the Electricity Sector**
6. The Reduction of the Total Energy Demand Through Conservation

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Thank You

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## New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan 2001

7. The Reduction and/or Adaptation of Negative Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts of Climate Change
8. A Decrease in the Transportation Sector's Growth in GHG Emissions